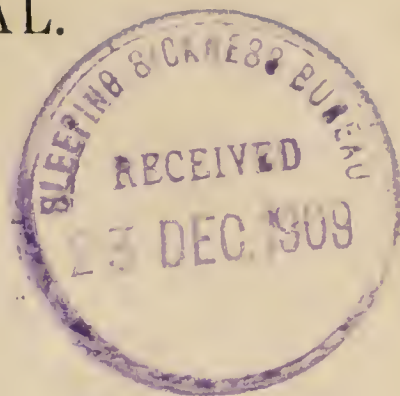


COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.



No. 619.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

REPORT FOR 1908-9.

(For Report for 1907-8, see No. 574.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1909.



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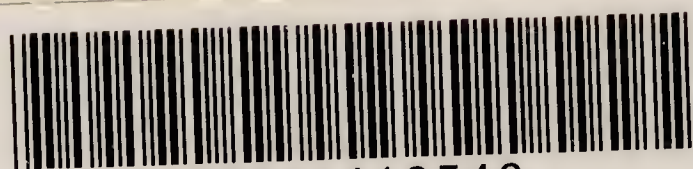
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No. 619.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE.

(For Report for 1907-8, *see* No. 574.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Zomba,
Nyasaland Protectorate,
10th August, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book of the Nyasaland Protectorate for the year 1908-9.

I have, &c.,

ALFRED SHARPE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

I.—FINANCE.

1. The revenue of the Protectorate for the year 1908-9 was £79,852, exclusive of the grant-in-aid and land sales, being £2,814 below the Estimate. There is, however, an increase of £4,911 on the revenue collected during the preceding financial year.

Receipts derived from sale of Crown lands amounted to £682, making the total revenue £80,534.

Compared with the Estimate the decrease shown is chiefly due to a falling off in customs revenue of £6,448, and port, harbour, and wharf dues of £2,000. This deficit is, however, reduced by an increase of £1,499 in postal revenue, £2,160 in hut taxes, £1,066 under miscellaneous revenue, and an outstanding contribution from the British South Africa Company of £2,000.

2. The total expenditure for the year was £103,032, being £5,843 less than estimated and £2,555 less than in 1907-8. The chief decrease was under "military," there being a saving of £4,061.

3. The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure for the past five years:—

| | | | | Revenue. | | | Expenditure. |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|--|--------------|
| | | | | £ | | | £ |
| 1904-5 | ... | ... | ... | 67,553 | ... | | 122,771 |
| 1905-6 | ... | ... | ... | 76,738 | ... | | 108,682 |
| 1906-7 | ... | ... | ... | 82,106 | ... | | 111,564 |
| 1907-8 | ... | ... | ... | 75,197 | ... | | 105,587 |
| 1908-9 | ... | ... | ... | 80,534 | ... | | 103,032 |

II.—TRADE.

4. The general external trade of the Protectorate, not including goods in transit to and from surrounding territories, amounted to £263,560, which sum exceeds the total for the previous year by £25,415.

5. The value of revenue-yielding imports for home consumption was £124,667, which is less than the value of similar imports in 1907-8 by £555. This decrease is due to importations in alcohol, provisions, and sundries. In soft goods, *i.e.*, native trade goods, there is a slight increase. As, however, there was

a large redundant stock of soft goods in the country at the beginning of the year, the orders placed by merchants in the home markets were comparatively small.

6. There is a satisfactory increase in the export trade, amounting to 483 tons in weight and £27,420 in net value disregarding specie. This increase is chiefly in cotton and coffee, being 87 per cent. and 20 per cent. respectively. Rice, which is a new article of export, amounted to 227 tons, while fibre and tea also appear on the list of exports for the first time. The only decreases of any magnitude are in strophanthus and ground-nuts, which commodities are purchased in variable quantities from natives, and are not systematically cultivated. The export of the latter is 172 tons less than in 1906-7. Rubber shows a slight decrease, but hitherto only small experimental parcels of cultivated rubber have been exported, *i.e.*, 1,514 lbs. against 1,119 lbs. in the previous year.

7. The transit trade continues to decrease, the value in 1908-9 being £4,859 less than the value in the previous year. Goods for North Eastern Rhodesia, with the exception of those sent by trading firms whose headquarters are in the Protectorate to branch stores, do not now pass through this country. Small consignments still pass through in transit to German East Africa and Portuguese territory bordering on the northern half of Lake Nyasa.

8. As regards imports, there is not much hope that the trade will increase to any great extent during the current financial year. Although the large stocks of soft goods which have been held by merchants from the year 1906-7 have been considerably reduced, the retail trade continues to be in a depressed state owing to natives, on whom trade chiefly depends, having been unable to obtain employment within the Protectorate. There is every prospect, however, that the export trade will steadily improve, as the area under cotton cultivation is increasing. The fact that the Oceana Company, who exported 62 tons of cotton during the year, have closed down their plantation, may affect the export of that article to a small degree, but there is every likelihood that the total for the year under report will be considerably exceeded in the year 1909-10. An increase in the export of cultivated rubber, tobacco, and tea may also be looked for. A new trade is being experimentally developed by the shipment to Europe of maize, for which article large orders have been received by merchants in the Protectorate. What is, however, urgently required to enable this article to be largely exported is railway extension.

9. The net customs revenue amounted to £18,011, which is £833 under the amount collected in 1907-8 and £1,996 below the revised estimate.

Imports, including railway material and specie, amounted to £140,916, or £28,625 less than the previous year.

General details are shown in the following statement:—

Table A.

| | 1907-8. | 1908-9. |
|---|---------|---------|
| | £ | £ |
| Arms and ammunition ... | 1,486 | 1,696 |
| Alcohol (spirituous liquors ... | 2,363 | 2,087 |
| Provisions (including beer and wines) | 19,445 | 18,456 |
| Hardware | 10,893 | 14,469 |
| Soft goods | 70,464 | 71,006 |
| Free goods | 57,856 | 27,854 |
| Sundries | 7,034 | 3,143 |
| Specie | — | 2,205 |
| Total | 169,541 | 140,916 |

Net decrease, £28,625.

NOTE.—The above figures include:—

| | |
|--|---------|
| Free imports by Nyasaland Government, 1907-8 ... | £ 6,325 |
| „ „ Shire Highlands Railway, 1907-8 | 37,974 |
| | £44,299 |
| „ „ Nyasaland Government, 1908-9 ... | £ 5,172 |
| „ „ Shire Highlands Railway, 1908-9 | 8,852 |
| | £14,024 |

Table B.

Exports during the year ended 31st March, 1909, as compared with the previous year:—

| | 1907-8. | | | 1908-9. | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|---------|
| | Weight. | Price per lb. (local). | Value. | Weight. | Price (local). | Value. |
| | Lbs. | s. d. | £ | Lbs. | s. d. | £ |
| Coffee ... | 780,133 | 0 5 | 16,253 | 934,896 | 0 5 lb. | 19,477 |
| Ivory ... | 2,630 | 10 0 | 1,315 | 5,098 | 10 0 „ | 2,549 |
| Hippo. teeth | 349 | 2 0 | 35 | 354 | 2 0 „ | 35 |
| Rubber .. | 15,533 | 4 3 | 3,301 | 15,415 | 4 0 „ | 3,083 |
| Oil seeds ... | 19,917 | 0 4 | 332 | 59,316 | 0 4 „ | 989 |
| Beeswax ... | 46,152 | 1 0 | 2,307 | 77,527 | 1 0 „ | 3,876 |
| Strophanthus | 29,394 | 2 6 | 3,674 | 11,691 | 2 6 „ | 1,461 |
| Chillies ... | 32,419 | 0 4 | 540 | 46,819 | 0 4 „ | 780 |
| Tobacco ... | 554,395 | 0 4 | 9,239 | 570,102 | 0 6 „ | 14,253 |
| Cotton ... | 403,486 | 7d., 8d., 9d. | 13,999 | 756,120 | 0 9 „ | 28,355 |
| Ground-nuts | 183,789 | 0 1½ | 1,149 | 101,319 | 0 1½ „ | 633 |
| Rice* ... | — | — | — | 507,509 | £3 ton. | 1,574 |
| Fibre* ... | — | — | — | 40,342 | £25—£30 ton | 446 |
| Tea* ... | — | — | — | 23,948 | 0 6 lb. | 599 |
| Cattle* ... | — | — | — | — | 3s., 4s., £3 each | 645 |
| Sundries ... | — | — | 2,227 | — | — | 3,036 |
| Specie ... | — | — | 14,233 | — | — | 40,853 |
| Total | 2,068,197 | — | 68,604 | 3,150,456 | — | 122,644 |

* Included in "Sundries" up to 31st October, 1908.

The following table shows the value of imports and exports during the past five years; not including goods in transit:—

| | | Imports for Home Consumption. | | Exports of Protectorate Products. | |
|--------|-----|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | | £ | | £ | |
| 1904-5 | ... | ... | 220,697 | ... | 49,449 |
| 1905-6 | ... | ... | 222,581 | ... | 56,778 |
| 1906-7 | ... | ... | 242,935 | ... | 50,247 |
| 1907-8 | ... | ... | 169,541 | ... | *68,604 |
| 1908-9 | ... | ... | *140,916 | ... | *122,644 |

* The above includes import of specie, value £2,205, and export of specie, 1907-08, £14,233 ; 1908-09, £40,853.

DIRECTION OF TRADE.

| | | | | Imports. | | Exports. | |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | | | 1907-08. | 1908-09. | 1907-08. | 1908-09. |
| | | | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| United Kingdom | ... | ... | ... | 128,994 | 107,743 | 38,974 | 97,460 |
| India | ... | ... | ... | 10,704 | 10,190 | — | — |
| Australia... | ... | ... | ... | 565 | 93 | — | — |
| South Africa | ... | ... | ... | 934 | 382 | 14,871 | 1,330 |
| Transvaal | ... | ... | ... | — | — | 6,404 | |
| Canada | ... | ... | ... | — | 31 | — | — |
| Total British Possessions | ... | ... | ... | 12,203 | 10,696 | 21,275 | 1,330 |
| Germany... | ... | ... | ... | 11,559 | 8,687 | 5,211 | 5,193 |
| Italy | ... | ... | ... | 1,206 | 931 | — | — |
| Holland | ... | ... | ... | 9,003 | 7,017 | — | — |
| Portugal | ... | ... | ... | 2,717 | 2,052 | 2,413 | 17,974 |
| America | ... | ... | ... | 840 | 1,505 | — | — |
| France | ... | ... | ... | 1,286 | 969 | — | — |
| Other Coun r es | ... | ... | ... | 1,733 | 1,316 | 731 | 687 |
| Total Foreign Countries | ... | ... | ... | 28,344 | 22,477 | 8,355 | 23,854 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 169,541 | 140,916 | 68,604 | 122,644 |

NOTE.—The above includes specie imported from the United Kingdom, 1908-9, £2,205.

| | | | | £ |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Specie exported to | South Africa, | 1907-8 | ... | 14,133 |
| „ | „ | Portuguese East Africa, | | |
| | | 1907-8 | ... | 100 |
| „ | „ | United Kingdom, | 1908-9 | 28,600 |
| „ | „ | Portuguese East Africa, | | |
| | | 1908-9 | ... | 12,253 |

III.—AGRICULTURE.

10. Coffee always has been, and will be, a fluctuating crop in Nyasaland. It now occupies the second place in point of acreage and value of export; before the introduction of cotton it was the principal crop of the Protectorate.

The following are the particulars of the industry for the last five years:—

| Year ending March. | | | | Total Acreage under Cultivation. | Crop exported at 31st March of each year. | Valued at |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|--|---|-----------|
| | | | | | Lbs. | £ |
| 1905 | ... | ... | ... | 4,880 | 1,303,655 | 27,159 |
| 1906 | ... | ... | ... | 5,273 | 773,919 | 16,123 |
| 1907 | ... | ... | ... | 5,565 | 454,111 | 9,461 |
| 1908 | ... | ... | ... | 6,134 | 780,133 | 16,253 |
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | 6,037 | 934,896 | 19,472 |

The year under review has been one of the best, and there is an appreciable increase in the value of the export, the acreage remaining practically stationary.

The determining factor with the coffee crop is the time at which the first rains commence; if the rains are late the crop is short on account of the bushes shedding their blossom. Coffee is one of the most particular crops as regards soil, and never does well in heavy clay land. The crop is probably the most speculative, as it is also the most valuable in a good season. Nyasaland coffee is of very excellent quality and generally commands high prices in the London market. The yield is much lighter than in other coffee-growing countries, but the Agricultural and Forestry Department is carrying out seed-selection experiments with a view to increasing its cultivation.

The crop is practically wholly produced by Europeans, and several estates are erecting improved machinery.

11. Cotton still holds the position of being the first crop in the Protectorate as regards acreage and value. The following are the particulars of the European cotton industry for the past five years:—

| Year. | | | | Total Acreage under European Cultivation. | Crop exported to 31st March. | Export Valuation. |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|---|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | Lbs. | £ |
| 1904-5 | ... | ... | ... | 21,900 | 285,185 | 5,914 |
| 1905-6 | ... | ... | ... | 10,012 | 776,621 | 16,180 |
| 1906-7 | ... | ... | ... | 7,017 | 526,119 | 15,345 |
| 1907-8 | ... | ... | ... | 8,659 | 403,486 | 13,999 |
| 1908-9 | ... | ... | ... | 8,975 | 756,120 | 28,355 |

The results of the past year were more promising than in the previous year, and the most encouraging feature of the industry is the increasing yield per acre, showing the value of acclimatisation. It will be some years before the crop recovers from the experiences of 1904-5, when it was a failure—the result of growing Egyptian varieties in the highlands, where the season is too short. The increased output is now based on sound principles, and planters are slowly but surely increasing their acreages under this crop. There are many thousands of acres available for cotton awaiting planters with capital.

The highlands of Nyasaland can produce the finest quality of Upland cotton in the world, some samples being sold at 6*d.* and 7*d.* a lb., when the same type of cotton grown in America was being sold at 5*d.* This is understood to be the first case on record where cotton has appreciated instead of depreciated when grown away from its natural habitat. This improvement in quality is to a large extent owing to the ripening of the crop during the dry and practically rainless season of the year (April to August). The Agricultural and Forestry Department are carrying out selection experiments with a view to increasing the yield. A paying crop must have over 100 lbs. of lint to the acre.

The lowlands (*i.e.*, up to 1,500 feet) are principally devoted to Egyptian varieties; Mitafifi giving the best results. Up to the present, Egyptian cotton cannot be considered a success, the quality being inferior; it is a much more difficult crop to cultivate, being very sensitive to cold. After experimenting for five years planters have found that the best time to plant is February, instead of November as is the case with Upland in the highlands. Upland varieties are now also being grown on the lower river in situations too low-lying and wet for Egyptian.

The initial experimental stage has now been passed, and the cotton industry, as a whole, promises well, the prospects of the crop now being picked being extremely favourable.

The native-grown cotton crop is principally purchased by the British Cotton Growing Association, who have done much to foster the cotton industry in Nyasaland.

The following is a comparative statement of native-grown seed cotton purchased by the African Lakes Corporation, Limited, as Agents for the British Cotton Growing Association:—

| Season ending— | lbs. |
|-----------------------|---------|
| March, 1907 | 124,065 |
| March, 1908 | 38,575 |
| February, 1909 | 211,143 |

The industry is gaining in favour with natives in certain districts, and several favourable reports have been made by Residents. Success with the native is largely due to the exertions of the Residents, but cotton must at present be a secondary consideration to their food crops. The present crop promises well, and seed will again be distributed free by Government. If a large cotton industry is to develop in Nyasaland it must come through the native, and if the country had a railway from the coast to the Lake, many thousands of bales could be exported.

Local ginneries would do much to stimulate this native industry. Favourable reports have been received from Manchester on the quality of the native product, but as long as the native has to carry his cotton 40 miles or more to market, the industry cannot increase rapidly.

12. Tobacco is rapidly increasing in favour as a crop; the quality has improved and better prices have been paid.

The establishment of the Imperial Tobacco Company's Factory at Limbe, near Blantyre, has given a considerable impetus to the production of Nyasaland tobacco, and the acreage under crop has risen rapidly. During the year a considerable portion of the crop was lost owing to simultaneous ripening and lack of barn accommodation for flue curing. Planters have now realised the necessity of having ample barn accommodation. Local prices range from 2*d.* to 8*d.* a lb., and samples sent to London have been, through the Imperial Institute, very favourably reported on, and valued by commercial firms at from 6*d.* to 9*d.* per lb. Tobacco requires more attention and skill in handling than any other crop grown in the Protectorate, and unless the quality produced commands a price over 4*d.* a lb. there is little profit to the grower, owing to lack of reasonable communication with the coast. It is also a crop employing a large number of natives for picking and grading, and, therefore, suitable for Nyasaland, where labour is superabundant and cheap.

The following table shows the acreage and export for the last five years, the export value from 1904 to 1908 being fixed at 4*d.* per lb., and at 6*d.* per lb. for the year ending March, 1909 (*i.e.*, 1908 crop):—

| Year. | | | | Total Acreage under Cultivation. | Crop exported at 31st March of each year. | Valued at |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|--|---|-----------|
| | | | | | Lbs. | £ |
| 1905 | ... | ... | ... | 421 | 56,826 | 947 |
| 1906 | ... | ... | ... | 955 | 198,994 | 3,317 |
| 1907 | ... | ... | ... | 2,330 | 413,316 | 6,889 |
| 1908 | ... | ... | ... | 1,843 | 554,395 | 9,239 |
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | 2,368 | 570,102 | 14,253 |

13. Rubber cultivation promises to become an important feature in Nyasaland, and there should be a considerable export of cultivated rubber within the next two or three years. During 1908-9 over 1,000 acres were planted, and 3,523 acres are now under cultivation. The climate, on the whole, is too dry for Para and Castilloa, but Ceara grows extremely well on suitable soils. A number of seeds of the new Manihots—*M. dichotoms* and *M. piauhuyensis*—have been imported, the percentage germinating proving very low. The growth of both species is, however, promising, and it is hoped that the reported astonishing yields of rubber obtained in their natural habitat will be maintained under cultivation.

Para (*Hevea Brasiliensis*) is grown in the West Nyasa District, where the rainfall is copious and well distributed throughout the year. Plants which have been established about three years are full of promise, being over 20 feet high. *Castilloa elastica* is also making excellent growth in this particular district. Experimental plots of *Funtumia elastica* are established in various parts of the Protectorate, but the rate of growth is, so far, disappointing.

During the year 1908-9, 15,415 lbs. of rubber was exported, valued at £3,083, of which 1,514 lbs. was cultivated rubber, 13,901 lbs. being collected from indigenous vines.

14. Sisal and Mauritius hems continue in favour with many planters, preference being given to Sisal, which, although of slower growth, is much hardier, and adapts itself more easily to varied soils, positions, and climates. The fibre is also of a finer character than that of Mauritius hemp. The cultivation of these fibres can only prove remunerative where a fairly large acreage is planted, and where thoroughly-proved machinery is laid down for preparing the fibre. The area under these fibres is now 928 acres, chiefly in the Blantyre District. The exports during the year were 18½ tons of Mauritius hemp.

15. The tea crop is chiefly confined to the Mlanje District, 598 acres being under cultivation. There is an experimental plot of 3 acres in the West Shire District. A considerable quantity is consumed locally, and during the year 23,948 lbs. were exported. Tea will always be a minor item in the products of Nyasaland, owing to the restricted areas suitable for its cultivation. With the exception of south-east Mlanje, West Nyasa is the most ideal district from a climatic point of view.

16. The cultivation of rice, chiefly on the shores of Lake Nyasa, is capable of indefinite extension, but is at present handicapped owing to cost of transport to the coast. In spite of this disadvantage about 507,000 lbs. was exported during the year, and the local consumption is very large. The rice industry is solely in the hands of native agriculturists.

17. The cultivation of ground-nuts has not yet been undertaken to any extent by Europeans. The crop is, however, largely grown by natives, who use it for food, the surplus being sold to European and Indian traders, 101,319 lbs. being exported during the year.

18. Camphor trees, planted in the Zomba Gardens in 1896, have made excellent growth, and one specimen flowered and fruited in 1907. Of the resulting seedlings, 350 have been distributed to various estates, and 500 have been planted out in the Zomba Experimental Gardens.

AFFORESTATION.

19. An area of about 50 acres on the plateau of Zomba mountain was cleared and planted up with Mlanje cypress. 40,000 eucalyptus plants were put out on swampy land near the native location for the production of poles and firewood. A piece of land has been selected and cleared for the purpose of forming a forest arboretum, and 46 various species of timber trees have

been planted. On the Zomba plateau, at an elevation of 5,000 feet, several species of *Pinus*, including *P. pinaster*, *P. pinea*, *P. canariensis*, and *P. insignis*, are under trial.

Planting operations in Blantyre are confined to the bank of the Mudi River, the work being in charge of a native forest ranger. 15,000 eucalyptus and 8,000 African mahogany trees were raised and planted, and a test plot of 2 acres was planted with *Cupressus funebris*.

Work in Mlanje was confined to timber-cutting, and protecting the cypress forests from fires. Timber-cutting was carried on during the dry months only, the quantity sawn for Government Departments being 44,800 lineal feet, of various dimensions.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

20. Twenty Ordinances have been enacted during the year (1st April, 1908, to 31st March, 1909).

V.—EDUCATION.

21. There are no Government schools in the Protectorate, native education being in the hands of the Missionary Societies established in various districts. During the past two years Government has made an annual grant of £1,000 in aid of primary education, which has been allocated, under certain conditions, to those Societies desirous of participating. There are 1,051 schools in the Protectorate, the majority of which are "Village Schools" (*i.e.*, schools in charge of native teachers, superintended by Europeans from the headquarters of the Missions), at which 84,600 natives receive instruction, the average attendance being 59,500. Native artisans are trained in the industrial schools attached to headquarters of most of the Missions, where carpentry, printing, bookbinding, agriculture, horticulture, and other practical trades are taught, much to the benefit of local industries.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

22. The number of offences reported was practically the same as in 1907-8, namely, 2,018, as against 2,014 in the previous year. As in former years, the commonest classes of offences were assault, larceny, and adultery, the latter being an offence by

native law and custom. 96 cases came up from the subordinate Courts for confirmation by the High Court, as against 83 in 1907-8, and 52 in 1906-7. These 96 cases are made up as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Murder | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Manslaughter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Attempted murder | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Rape | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Other offences against the person | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Malicious injury to property | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Robbery with violence | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Other offences against property | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Miscellaneous offences | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| | | | | | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 96 |
| | | | | | — |

In six of the cases of murder sentence of death was carried into effect. It may be noted that there was one case of forgery by a native.

On the criminal side, one case, under the Native Labour Ordinance, 1906, revealed an interesting system. A charge was brought against an Indian trader of wilfully withholding the wages of natives in his employment. In the course of the evidence it transpired that these natives were written on before the Resident to work for a year at 6s. a month, and 2s. for food. The employer, however, instead of paying by the calendar month, withheld payment till the natives had put in 30 working days. It was pointed out that by so doing he got at least four days per month more work out of the natives than he was entitled to, and, in fact, defrauded them to that extent.

Twenty-eight deceased estates were wound up, and the remaining estates, being dealt with by the Registrar of the High Court, were as far advanced towards final settlement as possible at the end of the year. It takes about six months to wind up an estate, as sufficient time must be allowed to get in claims from persons who have left the Protectorate and have to be communicated with.

The Second Examination in Law for Government officials was held last September, when six candidates presented themselves for examination, of whom five passed.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

23. The European population is returned at 595, as against 587 last year, showing an increase of 8, whereas the Asiatic population, on the contrary, shows a marked falling off—the figures for this year being 457, as against 515 last year. This decrease is most noticeable in the Zomba district, this year's figures being 113, as against 174 last year.

There were 14 European births registered during the year, as against 19 last year. The deaths registered during the year totalled 27, made up as follows:—

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| European (male adults) | 15 |
| ,, (male infant) | 1 |
| ,, (female infant) | 1 |
| Asiatic (male adults) | 9 |
| ,, (female) | 1 |

Eight marriages were celebrated during the year, as compared with seven in 1907-8.

The native population is estimated at 996,166.

VIII.—POSTAL.

24. The most important change affecting the carriage of mails was the running of the railway from the 4th of April between Port Herald and Blantyre regularly twice a week. On the 1st of May all the native mail carriers employed on the Blantyre-Chiromo section were dismissed, and a saving in expenditure is expected as a consequence.

The cash on delivery system launched by the General Post Office, London, was taken up by this Protectorate, and the public were able to avail themselves of this facility from 1st of September. It will be some time before the system is fully appreciated, but it has been made use of already to a small extent.

A new issue of postage stamps was on sale to the public from July. Halfpenny and 3*d.* stamps were introduced, while the 2*d.* stamp went out of issue. Halfpenny wrappers were also sold for the first time.

The General Post Office, Zomba, was transferred to the new public buildings on the 15th of January, 1909.

25. *Villa Bocage*.—This station on the Shire River was opened on the 6th of August, being a little later than usual. The station was again closed on the rise of the river early in January.

26. Statistics taken this year show that the correspondence dealt with has increased largely, being 233,705 above last year's total.

| | This Year. | Last Year. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Letters | 900,144 | 866,632 |
| Post-cards | 34,020 | 31,888 |
| Newspapers | 273,364 | 155,468 |
| Book-packets | 114,504 | 42,644 |
| Parcels | 10,192 | 5,078 |
| Samples | 3,224 | — |
| Closed bags (Colonial Office) ... | 174 | 207 |
| | <hr/> 1,335,622 | <hr/> 1,101,917 |

The number of parcels which were received from abroad this year was 2,912, a decrease on last year of 125, while 170 less parcels were despatched to places abroad when compared with last year.

27. BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS.

| | Sales. | | | Poundage. | | | Paid. | | |
|--------------|--------|----|----|-----------|----|----|-------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Last year... | 4,959 | 6 | 0 | 70 | 9 | 7 | 1,399 | 17 | 5 |
| This year... | 7,436 | 13 | 0 | 102 | 11 | 9 | 3,550 | 19 | 6 |

It will be seen from these figures that the increased sale of these orders has again been striking.

28. The value of postage stamps supplied to dealers and collectors rose to £1,974 this year. The new issue of stamps was the direct cause.

IX.—MILITARY.

29. The 1st Battalion King's African Rifles arrived from British East Africa in Nyasaland in July, 1908, in relief of the 2nd Battalion King's African Rifles, which left Chinde in June, 1908, for British East Africa.

30. A new musketry course was fired during the year. This course is considerably longer and more difficult than the previous one, though, judging from the scores of this Battalion, it does not appear to be too difficult. The results of the course were satisfactory.

31. No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the desired number of recruits from the various tribes, with the exception of the Atonga. A large number of discharged soldiers present themselves for re-enlistment.

32. The band is progressing both as regards the number of pieces they are able to play and in their manner of rendering them.

33. The health of the troops has been very good, and the number of cases of venereal disease since the arrival of the battalion in Nyasaland have been very few, except among men of the band. Although small-pox has been very prevalent in some districts, the precautions taken in regard to the troops have been entirely satisfactory, amongst whom no cases have occurred.

34. The K.A.R. Reserve Forces Ordinance, 1908, came into force in November, 1908. This Ordinance authorised the formation of the reserve mentioned in the last report, and made reservists liable for service within or *without* the Protectorate.

The men previously enlisted for the reserve accepted all the conditions of the new Ordinance, and were enrolled under it.

35. The strength of the Volunteer Reserve has been well maintained.

A higher shooting standard was attained during the past year, due to the reserve being armed with the new short-barrel rifle. Each section held monthly shooting meetings and competitions, and, in addition, the ranges were available for practice every week.

“The Volunteer Reserve Ordinance, 1908,” came into operation on the 1st of January, 1909, and has proved effective in operation. The reserve is now on a sound footing, and members are relieved of pecuniary responsibility owing to the Government capitation grant for efficiency being raised to £1.

X.—NATIVE AFFAIRS.

36. The condition of the native population remains satisfactory, and no incident of great import has affected or disturbed the general contentment of the aboriginal people.

The year under report was unfortunately marked by a series of small-pox epidemics, and owing to the general tendency of the native to dwell in scattered hamlets rather than in more concentrated settlements, the difficulty of dealing with these outbreaks has been largely augmented.

The outbreak was eventually got well in hand, and it may be anticipated that the passing of the Vaccination Ordinance and the increase of the vote for dealing with this specific sickness will result in the future in a lower death-rate from small-pox.

Sleeping sickness has fortunately not obtained an entry into the Protectorate, and extended investigations by the medical staff have up to date only disclosed two imported cases, which have been strictly segregated and placed under atoxyl treatment. There is reason to anticipate that this scourge will not become endemic in Nyasaland, although no doubt other imported cases will be found from time to time. Very stringent rules made under the Epidemic and Contagious Diseases Ordinance are in force in three districts of the Protectorate, their main object being to prevent the entry into the Protectorate of Asiatics and natives from the Congo State and the Tanganyika infected areas.

37. Labour has, as usual, been extremely plentiful, both in the dry season and even during the rains, but owing to the low wage offered locally, many natives prefer to seek labour in southern Africa, where the pay is much higher and the labourer is generally well cared for. The regularisation of the emigration of surplus labour has proved entirely beneficial both to the native himself and to the Protectorate generally. Parties of labourers have been permitted to proceed in varying numbers to Southern Rhodesia for mine and farm labour, and similarly some thousands of natives have volunteered for work on the sugar plantations on

the Zambesi. The limited withdrawal of the restrictions which discouraged natives from going to work on the mines of the Transvaal will prove popular with the native. As matters have turned out, this will prove beneficial in more than one way, as a tendency was being indicated for native labourers to emigrate to German East African railway works, now in course of construction from the coast of Tanganyika, and it seems undoubtedly preferable to allow their proceeding to British South Africa rather than to foreign territories, in parts of which sleeping sickness is rife.

38. Hut taxes have been paid willingly and without pressure.

The following table shows the hut-tax returns for the past five years :—

| | | | | | | £ |
|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1904-5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29,024 |
| 1905-6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31,074 |
| 1906-7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35,619 |
| 1907-8 | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36,605 |
| 1908-9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38,389 |

39. Every effort has been made to encourage the native to extend his cultivation of products of economic worth, and satisfactory increases both in the amount and quality of the cotton grown by the native agriculturists are evident. The rice industry of the Protectorate is entirely in the hands of native growers, and if reasonable communication from the Protectorate to the coast were available large developments in this product alone would ensue, as the quality grown is first rate, and there is little doubt that Nyasaland in time could supply those parts of south and south-east Africa with rice which now rely for their supply on the East Indies.

XI.—GENERAL.

40. Two thousand three hundred and forty head of game were killed under licence during the year. This included 34 elephants and 4 rhinoceros.

As regards dangerous game, 3 lions and 16 leopards were killed. The following licences were issued :—

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Licence “ A ” (£25) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| „ “ B ” (£4) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| „ “ C ” (£2) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 |

In addition to the above, rifles and ammunition are always lent to the natives for the purpose of protecting their crops and villages from the depredations of wild animals.

41. Roads have continued to receive a large amount of attention, and the macadamisation of the main thoroughfares with the aid of a steam roller has been commenced. The tropical downpours to which this country is liable, and the increase in wheeled traffic which is so evident, tend to make the upkeep of the roads an expensive and difficult matter.

The grand trunk road which runs through the Protectorate from Chirmo to Karonga—a distance of over 500 miles—has been completed, with the exception of a few miles at the extreme north of the country. Politically this thoroughfare has proved of great value, and has done more than anything else within recent years to bring the more remote parts of the Protectorate and their wilder inhabitants into touch with, and under the control of, the administrative branch. It has also proved invaluable for Europeans who have business connections with the more northerly parts of Nyasaland.

42. Two Sessions in May and November of the Legislative Council took place, and much useful and important work was effected.

43. In March navigation on the Upper Shire River between Liwonde and Fort Johnston became impossible owing to floating masses of reeds and sudd blocking the main channel. Large gangs of men under European supervision were employed by the Public Works and Marine Transport Departments in hauling the sudd out of the river and clearing the main channel.

44. A sum of £400 has been expended on this work, and a main channel from Liwonde to Fort Johnston, 65 miles long and 24 feet wide, has been made; the width is, however, being extended to a total of 48 feet throughout.

45. The actual construction of the railway ceased during the year, and the line (113 miles in length) between Port Herald, the head of navigation on the Shire River, and Blantyre, the commercial capital, has been in continual use for passenger and general traffic. The transport of produce and goods has been greatly facilitated.

NYASALAND PROTECTORATE



COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

| No. | Colony, &c. | Year. |
|-----|---|-----------|
| 584 | Imperial Institute | 1906-1907 |
| 585 | Barbados | 1907-1908 |
| 586 | Somaliland Protectorate | " |
| 587 | Trinidad and Tobago | " |
| 588 | Sierra Leone | 1907 |
| 589 | British Guiana | 1907-1908 |
| 590 | Grenada... .. | 1907 |
| 591 | Leeward Islands | 1907-1908 |
| 592 | East Africa Protectorate | " |
| 593 | Bechuanaland Protectorate | " |
| 594 | Northern Nigeria | " |
| 595 | Basutoland | " |
| 596 | Swaziland | " |
| 597 | St. Helena | 1908 |
| 598 | Gibraltar | " |
| 599 | Falkland Islands | " |
| 600 | Uganda | 1907-1908 |
| 601 | Imperial Institute | 1908 |
| 602 | Northern Territories of the Gold Coast | " |
| 603 | Ashanti | " |
| 604 | Ceylon | " |
| 605 | Weihaiwei | " |
| 606 | Seychelles | " |
| 607 | Jamaica | 1907-1908 |
| 608 | Colonial Survey Committee | 1908-1909 |
| 609 | Gambia | 1908 |
| 610 | Malta | 1908-1909 |
| 611 | Sierra Leone | 1908 |
| 612 | Turks and Caicos Islands | " |
| 613 | Gold Coast | " |
| 614 | Bechuanaland Protectorate | 1908-1909 |
| 615 | Bahamas... .. | " |
| 616 | St. Lucia | 1908 |
| 617 | Hong Kong | " |
| 618 | Fiji | " |

MISCELLANEOUS.

| No. | Colony, &c. | Subject. |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| 52 | South Africa | Native Education. |
| 53 | East Africa Protectorate | Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907-08. |
| 54 | Newfoundland | Governor's visit to Micmac Indians. |
| 55 | Cape Colony | Rietfontein Area. |
| 56 | Turks Islands | Salt Industry. |
| 57 | Uganda | Governor's Tour. |
| 58 | British Colonies... .. | Fibres. |
| 59 | Northern Nigeria | Mineral Survey, 1906-7. |
| 60 | Nyasaland Protectorate | Mineral Survey, 1907-8. |
| 61 | South Africa | Agriculture and Viticulture. |
| 62 | Uganda | Cotton Industry. |

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